

# **AESOP'S FABLES FOR TEENS**

## **Audacity, PowerPoint, Movie Maker Integration Project**

### **Background Information**

Aesop's fables (stories in which animals speak and act like humans) date back to the sixth century B.C. Aesop was a Greek slave from the island of Samos. According to legend, after being freed by his master Aesop traveled and collected many adventures, which were then handed down as oral stories throughout the ages. These stories are short, moralistic tales that usually teach some kind of lesson through the experiences of personified animals. One of the most famous fables is "The Tortoise and the Hare," in which the slow but persistent Tortoise wins a race against the fast but lazy Hare. Other popular stories are the "Fox and the Grapes" and "The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing."

Aesop's fables were translated into English in 1692 by Roger Lestrangle (1616–1704) in London, England. Some of the stories are closely related to fables of other cultures and earlier times.

Site for reading the fables:

<http://www.aesopfables.com/>

### **Your Task**

Read some Aesop's Fables and select one that you would like to apply to contemporary times. Find one that means something to you, that you believe you (and other teenagers like you) can learn something from. To help you find information to use, find a "theme" in your fable (persistence, determination, love, etc., and then look up quotes about that theme; you should find quotes by people and can then look up biographic information about the people that will be useful).

Locate appropriate artwork to illustrate the fable. Assemble your illustrations in PowerPoint (and save the slides as JPGs to use in your Movie Maker project). You will read the fable aloud (narrate in Audacity and add sound effects and/or music; export as WAV or MP3 to insert in Movie Maker), discuss how it applies to today, and give examples of how people can learn from this and apply it to their lives. Find at least TWO examples of stories about famous people (could be athletes, business people, movie stars, music artists) who learned this lesson (maybe the hard way) and use at least one quote from a famous person pertaining to your topic.

At all times, make sure that your fable and its moral are clearly related. This project in its entirety is essentially an illustrated speech (but I'm being nice and letting you do this in Movie Maker rather than stand up in front of all of us).

In addition to your fable illustration slides you must design a title slide, which will include the project title, the name of your fable, and your name. Please make this look nice (not just words on a colored background), and feel free to include your photograph.

### **Other**

Assemble your notes (fable, stories, quotes) using an online system to track the URLs and copy/paste the words (get account at [www.notebookg.com](http://www.notebookg.com)); your script should be paraphrased (except the fable).

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## SCORING GUIDE for \_\_\_\_\_ (your name)

Please review all requirements on the scoring guide before you begin. You must turn in a "script" of your project, which should be approved during the first few days of the project. The finished movie should be exported (Save Movie As) in WMV format and saved to the X drive in the AESOP folder for viewing. Be sure to test it on another computer! Your scoring guide should be turned in to the basket when you are finished.

<b>Required</b>	<b>Total Points</b>	<b>Deducted</b>
Script turned in and approved in advance (attach)	10	
Length: Runs 2:30 to 3:00 in length (all or nothing!)	10	
Format: Exported in media player viewable format (WMV)	10	
PowerPoint used to assemble artwork ( <u>optional</u> : could use AutoScreen recorder to record "video" of moving PowerPoint to import to the project-AVI)	10	
PowerPoint (and/or other photo software) used to create title slide (and looks professional)	5	
Title slide includes student name and fable title; all students should have "big" title of AESOP'S FABLES FOR TEENS	5	
Assembly is creative and uses appropriate transitions (limited), ease in/out, fade in/out and good quality graphics	20	
Quality of speech (content)	20	
At least two famous people stories and one quote	15	
Quality of narration (clarity, tone, emphasis, volume) --record in Audacity, and be sure the quality is good! --2+ sound effects MUST be added to the presentation and must include "environment" sounds for the fable portion; music is optional, but quiet music might be a nice touch	20 <i>list sounds:</i>	
Notebook file printed and turned in (includes URLs)	15	
Turned in by due date (all or nothing) and saved to X drive	10	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150</b>	

Saved as: \_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_ (in Media Player)  
(save to my computer, other-Video for Broadband, 150 kbps)

**Optional:** Upload to dropshots.com or multiply.com website

Website address: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Comments:

***My Sample Script:***

Aesop's fables are known by many to use tales of talking animals to teach lessons about life. One such fable is the Hare and the Tortoise:

A hare one day ridiculed the short feet and slow pace of the Tortoise, who replied, laughing: "Though you be swift as the wind, I will beat you in a race." The Hare, believing her assertion to be simply impossible, assented to the proposal; and they agreed that the Fox should choose the course and fix the goal. On the day appointed for the race the two started together. The Tortoise never for a moment stopped, but went on with a slow but steady pace straight to the end of the course. The Hare, lying down by the wayside, fell fast asleep. At last waking up, and moving as fast as he could, he saw the Tortoise had reached the goal, and was comfortably dozing after her fatigue.

The Moral: Slow but steady wins the race.

In my eyes, this fable is an excellent illustration of the power of persistence. Persistence is the act of continually pursuing something in spite of obstacles.

As you go through life, things are bound to not go your way from time to time. Those who are weak may choose to give up. Those who persist can go on to greatness.

Here is one story of a great man. He was active in politics and worked hard to be elected to Congress... and did not win until his THIRD try. Even then, when his term expired, he could not get re-elected. Later, he ran for the Senate...but, he lost again. He persisted at politics and ran for the vice-president, but lost. And, finally, at the age of fifty-one, he was elected President of the United States. His name was Abraham Lincoln.

Many of you know who Michael Jordan is, one of the greatest basketball players of all time. But, did you know that he tried out for the varsity basketball team during his sophomore year, but was told he was too short to play at that level. After training hard and growing a few inches, he managed to earn a spot on the varsity roster the next year, and went on to average 25 points per game over his final two seasons of high school play. And, we all know how well he has done since then.

Becoming successful is all about the state of mind. You must be willing to take a chance. You may fail from time to time, but you must not be afraid to do this.

Oprah Winfrey once said, "Think like a queen. A queen is not afraid to fail. Failure is another steppingstone to greatness."

So, like the story of the Hare and the Tortoise, remember to persist. Though sometimes you may not be the best at something or you may have obstacles thrown in your way, have the right mindset to work that much harder.

Because, as Aesop said, Slow but steady wins the race.

Other link: <http://www.umass.edu/aesop/>